(c) and (d) The projects which have been running in Tripura prior to 2005-06 alongwith the reasons for unusual delay are from serial no. 583 to serial no. 628 of the Annexure mentioned above.

Reasons for delay include, *inter-alia*, non receipt of utilization certificates from the State Governments, non release of funds to the implementing agencies by the State Governments, along gestation period for certain projects, budgetary constraints etc.

Daily wastage of vegetables and fruits

1332. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of vegetables for fruits perishes daily in the country due to lack of proper processing facilities;

(b) if so, the quantity of vegetables and fruits wasted daily in the country and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to process the vegetables/ fruits;

(c) whehter Government propose to follow developed countries like the USA in developing processing industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (d) As per the report of M/s. Rabo India finance Private Limited, wastage of the agricultural foodstuffs is estiamted to be about Rs. 58000 crore per annum occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Recently, in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery

has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the Budget of 2006-07, customs duty on packaging machines has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent, excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast are fully exempt, excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes, reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent and excise duty on packaging paper has been reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent.

Development of FPIs in Assam

1333. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the high potential for food processing industries development in Assam and other North Eastern States, any plan has been drawn out for development of such industries in differents States and parts of North East, particularly in Barak Valley in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost and Government's participation contemplated thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing has already advised the States and the North Eastern Region including Assam the requirement of drawing up of a plan for food processing industries, the expenditure for which shall be borne by this Ministry. Besides this the Ministry implements various schemes with higher percentage/quantum of assistance for the North East. The Scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries provides financial assistance at the rate of 25% of the Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works in general areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50/- lakhs and 33.33% of the Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works in difficult areas including Assam and other North Eastern